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## WTO & INDIAN AGRICULTURE

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### Abstract:

*During last two decades India's agricultural exports as a part of total merchandise exports have continued to decline from the preponderant position they occupied in the pre-independence. But with the achievement of self-sufficiency in food grains and some other major agricultural commodities, which used to account for large portion of import bill, overall imports of agricultural commodities have sharply declined. The outlay on agricultural imports as a proportion of earnings from agricultural exports has progressively declined, and all the balance has become progressively more favorable. Discussion on these issues has, naturally, to take into account the new trade regime as the stated objective of firstly to study the performance of India's agricultural exports under WTO regime. secondly, to analyze the competitiveness of top agri-exports of India under WTO regime. Finally, to suggest policy measures in the identified India's agricultural. In the first part of discuss briefly introduce, the developments in agricultural trade specially the agricultural exports at the world level in the recent years and discuss the performance of Indian agriculture in this respect finally shaped the shifts in this policy. Final part, I will try to spell out the ingredients of a strategy to augment agricultural exports in the changing, and more demanding, global economy.*

**Introduction:** Formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in January 1, 1995 as a successor organisation for the General Agreement of Tariff and Trade (GATT) was a watershed event in the history of global trade reforms. Under the auspices of the WTO, many trade-related agreements were signed by the member countries (WTO 1995), and, for the first time, an Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) was reached to reform and dismantle trade barriers in the agricultural sector. Recently, a WTO panel has ruled against India in a dispute with the United States (US) rejecting India's claim that balance of payment problem justifies its import restrictions (ITN, 1999). In this context, it is imperative that India takes a retrospective view of what has happened so far and ponder over her prospects for successful and pro-active re-negotiations at the end of this year. Attention is drawn to the empirical evidence that agricultural supply response to terms-of-trade is quite ambiguous.

### Objectives

1. To study of Impact of WTO on Indian Agriculture sector.
2. To study the effects of WTO on Indian Agriculture Trade.
3. To suggest policy measures in the identified India's agricultural.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data. The annual time series data are used for the entire period from 2001 to 2011. The objective is to compare export performance under WTO regime with pre- WTO period. Sub- periods are also made for short- term comparison. Wherever it is necessary, longer period time series data are used. Data are obtained from FAO, UNCTAD, IMF, WTO, RBI, Ministry of Agriculture GOI, Ministry of Finance GOI and Tea Board of India. To examine the agriculture export performance, tools like, percentage, ratio, Compound Annual Growth Rate, Average Growth Rate, Co-efficient Variance, etc.

### Agricultural trade policy

India like several other long countries is not an export-oriented economy. This is particularly true of agriculture. In recent years the ratio of agricultural exports to agriculture GDP has seldom exceeded 3 per cent. This is itself is not a disqualification. Nor, if the example of the African countries is an indication, a high export to GDP ratio is a blessing in itself. The importance of exports as an economic activity has to be judged by the objectives it serves. India's foreign trade regime till the reforms initiated in 1991 was primarily dictated by two important considerations, a quest for import substituting industrialization and concern for dwindling foreign exchange resources. The major instruments used to implement these policy goals comprised of quantitative restrictions, heightened tariffs, surcharge on imports, rebate on exports and phases in which these provisions were relaxed

yet. The basic characteristics of an inward looking import substituting policy frame remained more or less intact. The instrumentality of element of the developmental thinking. i.e., an implicit distrust of private sector and an implicit faith in bureaucracy to achieve the stated goals of development.

#### **Indian Agriculture and WTO**

World Trade Organization was established on January 1,1995. It replaced GATT. WTO is much wider in scope and coverage.

WTO member countries are subject to following obligations on domestic support to their agriculture. However, there are many issues under the AOA which are considered against the interests of developing countries like India. Firstly, the minimum access for import of primary goods flouts the basic rule of promoting free trade under WTO agreement. Secondly, distortions emerge from inequity in domestic subsidy discipline due to different base positions. The developed countries are heavily subsidized countries and are allowed to retain up to 80 per cent of their subsidies but developing countries can subsidize their farmers not more than 10 per cent of the total value of agricultural production. Hence, the domestic support by developed countries needs to be reduced substantially in absolute terms. Thirdly, India has argued that for low income countries, market access and domestic support discipline should be such that their food requirements are met from domestic sources. The volatile international market can get transmitted to the domestic economy and can affect the prices of food grains and food entitlement of the poor.

Fourthly, developing countries face highest tariff rates which include the major agricultural staple foods, cereals, meat, sugar, milk, butter, cheese as well as tobacco products and cotton. The Indian proposals have, by and been well received and endorsed by most of the developing countries as well as some of the developed countries. However, it is important that steps are taken to reap benefits of a liberalized trade regime through increased efficiency arising from sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Efficiency would be greatly enhanced with increased investment and land reforms. Also, diversification of agricultural production into agro-foods, horticulture and floriculture products and farm products with international quality standards could help to increase exports from this sector.

**CONCLUSION:** The finally, Indian agricultural products by seeking a reduction in the high tariffs and subsidies present in developed countries. A higher growth in agriculture, thus, needs a comprehensive revamp of agricultural policy with reorientation towards rapid diversification of this sector. A progressive correction is required in the incentive structure for agriculture so that the excessively high minimum support prices do not continue to distort resource allocation in agriculture. After come across out results Technology Mission and the market intervention operations by the public agencies.

A heartening feature of the growth in oilseeds production has been that it occurred in the agriculturally backward areas of states. This suggests that there exists some scope for raising

agricultural output through improvements in technical efficiency, without resort to new improved technologies. This will ensure that farmers diversification towards high value added segments of agriculture in response to the new demand structure.

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